



Decision Memo
2018 Fuels Mowing and Underburn Project
USDA Forest Service
Crescent Ranger District, Deschutes National Forest
Klamath County, Oregon

I am authorizing to mow/masticate and/or underburn approximately 3,677 acres in 47 units throughout the district. This would reduce natural fuel build up (fuel loading) and create fuel breaks among the ponderosa pine stands and mixed conifer stands on the District which would reduce the high probability of a large fire in these areas. Approximately 998 of those 3,677 acres are within the Greater LaPine Basin project area, which is an area where fuel reduction is encouraged to reduce the threat of wildlife in the wildland urban interface (WUI) near communities.

Maintaining fuel load characteristics that are typical for historic ponderosa pine and mixed conifer forests is important in a dry eastside forest. Prescribed burning in stands dominated by ponderosa pine would maintain a relatively open condition, minimizing the potential for stand replacing wildfire, inhibiting successional progression and enhancing the area for other resources.

Units will be monitored and reevaluated every five years. This re-evaluation would consist of reviewing the existing condition against the desired condition and any changed conditions and determining the best course of action; mowing, mastication, underburning or a combination. The Desired Future Stand Condition (structure remains substantially unchanged) is the ultimate goal to be met where horizontal fuel continuity is such that crown fire is unlikely and potential wildfire suppression will be successful. Elements important to wildlife which have fire and fuels tradeoffs, such as brush, downed wood, and pockets of dense seedlings and saplings, may be reduced but still remain in a matrix of light surface fuels.

Purpose and Need

The purpose of the proposal is to maintain fuel loading characteristics that are typical for historic ponderosa pine forests and mixed conifer stands by reducing natural fuel build-up and maintaining breaks in fuel continuity. In the areas that are proposed for maintenance burning¹, there have been increases in fuel loadings as a result of needle fall, small tree reproduction, and brush development that have occurred since the conclusion of previous treatments.

There is a need to maintain the open condition, minimize fuel loading, and the potential for stand-replacing wildfire by a combination of mowing, masticating, and/or underburning in ponderosa pine and mixed conifer stands in the District.

Proposed Action

The proposed action would treat ponderosa pine habitats that have been identified as needing maintenance by prescribed fire in areas where previous prescribed fire projects reduced the risk of stand replacement wildfire and improved forest health and public safety. These areas now show a change in condition that requires another treatment. The proposed action would also treat mixed conifer stands and ponderosa stands that have not had prior underburning². These stands will benefit in reduced fuel loadings that would allow fire to occur more frequently with less intensity, protect and enhance wildlife habitats while decreasing fuel continuity. Burning in stands dominated by ponderosa pine would maintain a relatively

¹ Maintenance or second entry - is an additional time (or times) to enter the stand utilizing prescribed burning to maintain the desired condition class.

² A first initial entry burn would be the initial time that prescribed burning is applied to the unit.

open condition, minimizing the potential for stand-replacing wildfire, inhibiting successional progression and enhancing the area for other resources. Mowing and/or mastication could happen before the prescribed fire in order to decrease ladder fuels and allow the prescribed burn to be implemented with less fire intensity.

Location:

The project is located throughout the district with the majority of the units south of Crescent, east of Hwy 97, southwest of Hwy 58. The remaining units are north of the Cut-off Road/ County Road 61, with units located from approximately 6 to 16 air miles from Crescent, Oregon. The units are located in Klamath County, Oregon, with a legal description of:

T22 R7 Sec 1, 2, 11, 12, 14, 28, 33

T23 R7 Sec 3, 4, 19

T23R6 Sec 24, 44

T24 R7 Sec 1, 6

T24 R8 Sec 4, 5

T24 R11 Sec 20, 21, 27, 28, 29,

T25 R7 sec 10, 11, 14, 16, 17, 22, 23, 25, 35, 36

T25 R8 sec 35, 36

T25 R9 Sec 31

T25.5 R8, 9 Sec 1, 2, 6, 37, 38

T26 R8 Sec 10,11,12,14,15, 16, 17, 20, 22, 24, 25, 26, 27, 29, 32, 34, 33, 35, 36, Willamette Meridian (Figure 1).

Reasons for Categorically Excluding the Decision

Decisions may be categorically excluded from documentation in an environmental impact statement or environmental assessment when they are within one of the categories listed in 36 CFR 220.6(e), and there are no extraordinary circumstances related to the decision that may result in a significant individual or cumulative effect on the quality of the human environment.

Category of Exclusion

The appropriate category of exclusion is found in the Forest Service National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) regulations at 36 CFR 220.6(e)(6). This category is appropriate because the project involves "...Prescribed burning to reduce natural fuels build-up and improve plant vigor."

Relationship to Extraordinary Circumstances

In determining the appropriateness of using the categorical exclusion, a determination of the potential impact to the resource conditions identified in FSH 1909.15 Section 30.3(2) must be made. The following is the list of the potential effects to the resource conditions from the project activities.

1. Federally listed threatened or endangered species or designated critical habitat, species proposed for Federal listing or proposed critical habitat, or Forest Service sensitive species.

- ***Wildlife:*** This project would have "**No Effect**" to the northern spotted owl and designated critical habitat and would not contribute to a negative trend in viability on the Deschutes National Forest. This project would have "**No Effect**" to the gray wolf, North American wolverine, pacific fisher, Oregon spotted frog or its Critical Habitat.
 - ✓ This project would have "**No Impact**" to the northern bald eagle.
 - ✓ This project would have a "**Beneficial Impact**" to the Lewis' woodpecker and White-headed woodpecker.

- ✓ This project “May impact individuals or habitat, but will not likely contribute to a trend toward federal listing or loss of viability to the population or species” for the Johnson’s hairstreak and Western bumblebee.
 - **Plants:** This project would have “No Effect” to any threatened, endangered, and “No Impact” to R6 Sensitive plant species. This project will also not contribute to a trend towards Federal listing or cause a loss of viability to TES plant populations or species.
 - **Fisheries:** This project would have “No Effect” to any threatened, endangered, and “No Impact” to R6 Sensitive fish species.
- 2. Flood plains, wetlands, or municipal watersheds**
Executive Order 11988 provides direction to avoid adverse impacts associated with the occupancy and modification of floodplains. Executive Order 11990 provides direction to avoid adverse impacts associated with destruction or modification of wetlands. The project is consistent with both executive orders.
- This project would have no effect to either floodplains or wetlands.
 - There would be no adverse effects to a municipal watershed because the project is not located within or adjacent to a municipal watershed.
- 3. Congressionally designated areas, such as wilderness, wilderness study areas, or national recreation areas**
The proposed project has units adjacent to Crescent Creek Wild and Scenic River corridor, but no units overlap the corridor, thus the Wild and Scenic Corridor would not be impacted by the proposed actions. The project area is not located within any Wilderness, Wilderness Study Areas, or National Recreation Areas. The closest Wilderness Area is the Diamond Peak Wilderness which is approximately one mile to the west.
- There is no proposed activity in the Cascades National Recreation Area (OCRA). The OCRA is approximately two miles to the southwest of the closest prescribed burn unit. All prescribed fire operations will follow the state of Oregon Smoke Management Program requirements.
- 4. Inventoried Roadless Areas (IRA) or Potential Wilderness Areas**
The project is not located within any Inventoried Roadless Areas (IRA) or potential wilderness areas. The nearest Inventoried Roadless Area is the Maiden Peak IRA, is less than a mile to the northwest of the closest unit. The only potential effect could be from smoke and prescribed fire managers would use smoke management forecasts and adhere to the State of Oregon Smoke Management Plan in order to minimize smoke from fuels reduction activities. The project is not within a potential wilderness area, nor will it affect any of the criteria for inventorying potential wilderness (ie. – no roads will be built, no timber will be cut).
- 5. Research Natural Areas**
There are no existing or proposed Research Natural Areas (RNA) in or adjacent to the project. The nearest Research Natural Area is the Gold Lake Bog RNA on the Willamette National Forest, which is approximately nine miles to the west.
- 6. 7. American Indian and Alaska Native religious or Cultural Sites, Archaeological Sites, or Historic Properties of Areas**
This project was subject to standard case-by-case review for *No Adverse Effect* under the 2004 Programmatic Agreement among the USDA-Forest Service, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, and the Oregon State Historic Preservation Office. This project has been determined to be compliant with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

Based on the conclusions regarding the effects to the resources and conditions listed above, I have determined the project will have no extraordinary circumstances that may result in a significant direct, indirect, or cumulative effect on the quality of the human environment.

Public Involvement

Public scoping and Tribal consultation were conducted in conjunction with the release of the preliminary Decision Memo. This project was also listed in the Deschutes National Forest Schedule of Proposed Actions and on the Forest Service website. Comments were accepted from August 08th, 2018 through September 10th, 2018. The Klamath Tribes and Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs responded with interest in the project. One respondent has property adjacent to some of the units and would like to be notified when work is scheduled on these units.

Consistency with Deschutes Land and Resource Management Plan

I have reviewed the *Deschutes National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan and Record of Decision 1990* (Forest Plan), as amended by the *Record of Decision for Amendments to Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management Planning Documents Within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl* (Northwest Forest Plan, 1994) and the *Pacific Northwest Region Invasive Plant Program 2005*, and have determined that the project is consistent with the amended Forest Plan goals, objectives, and standards and guidelines. Biological Evaluations were prepared for Sensitive, Threatened, and Endangered animal, plant and aquatic species and are located in the project file at the Crescent Ranger District. Also, the project meets all of the applicable Project Design Criteria from the 2014 Programmatic Biological Assessment for central Oregon.

Scenic Views

The major scenic corridors as they relate to the 2018 Fuels Mowing and Underburn analysis area are along Highway 58, Highway 97, Highway 46, the Cascades Lakes Highway, and Highway 31. There are approximately 10 units (525 acres) along these roads that are considered Scenic Views "Retention Foreground" or "Partial Retention- Foreground" where management activities are evident, however, they must remain visually subordinate to the natural landscape (LRMP 4-122). Low intensity prescribed burning (M9-90) will follow the Standards and Guidelines of the Deschutes Land and Resource Management Plan (1990) as amended by the Scenic Views Forest Plan Amendment (July 2019).

Old Growth Management Areas

There are four units (approximately 363 acres) that overlaps Management Area M15 Old Growth Management Areas (OGMAs). Prescribed burning "in Ponderosa Pine and mixed conifer stands, may be used to achieve desired old growth characteristics. It may also be used there to reduce unacceptable fuel loadings that potentially could result in high intensity wildfire" (M15-19; LRMP 4-151).

Consistency with Northwest Forest Plan

Twenty-three units containing approximately 2,003 acres in the 2018 Fuels Mowing and Underburning Project lie within the boundary of the Northwest Forest Plan. Approximately 1,219 acres (13 units) fall under the Northwest Forest Plan Land Allocation "Matrix" with an additional 785 acres (11 units) in "Late Successional Reserves"³ (LSR). Fuels activities in the LSR would follow and be consistent with guidelines in the Davis Late-Successional Reserve Assessment (April 2007) and the Regional Ecosystem Office Review of Davis LSRA (April 2007 revision) Memorandum dated May 10, 2007.

³ There is some overlap between units and acres of matrix and LSR, as some acres and units may be counted twice.

Survey and Manage

This project is consistent with the January 2001 *Record of Decision and Standards and Guidelines for Amendments to the Survey and Manage, Protection Buffer, and other Mitigation Measures Standards and Guidelines* as altered by the 2011 Consent Decree and the May 13, 2014 Letter of Direction.

Wildlife- This project applies the Survey and Manage species list in the 2001 ROD.

- Great gray owl, (*Strix nebulosa*), Vertebrate, Category C. Potential habitat, no known nests.
- Crater Lake tight coil (*Pristiloma articum crateris*), and evening fieldslug (*Deroceras hesperium*) Mollusk, Category B, included in analysis for sensitive species. Implementation of the proposed project will not alter wetland habitat therefore would not impact the evening field slug or the Crater Lake tightcoil.

Plants- there are no known (currently listed) Survey and Manage botanical species within the underburn units, the proposed project will not impact any of those species on the 2003 species list.

Additional National, State, and Local Laws and Direction

This project includes burning or actions that would cause more than incidental dust. The Forest Service voluntarily follows the guidelines assigned by Oregon Smoke Management Plan to limit state-wide exposure on a cumulative basis in compliance with the Clean Air Act of 1963 as amended.

This project is consistent with the Clean Water Act of 1972. None of the proposed actions will affect the beneficial uses or 303(d) listed waterbodies.

This project will not disproportionately affect any social groups or civil rights. The U.S. Department of Agriculture prohibits discrimination in its employment practices based on race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital and family status. This project will not have any disparate effects on any consumers, minority groups, women, civil rights, or social/ethnic groups. This project will be compliance with Executive Order 12898, Environmental Justice.

This project is consistent with the Endangered Species Act of 1973. This project will be compliant with Executive Order 13186, Conservation of Migratory Birds related to the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) of 1918, as amended.

Implementation

When the Decision Memo is signed, project implementation can begin once final approval is received from the Crescent District Assistant Fire Management Officer (AFMO), Fuels. The following project design features will be included to meet project objectives and/or to reduce or minimize unwanted effects:

Cultural

- For any ground disturbance work- if imported fill is utilized it must be from a culturally sterile source (meaning there is no possible contamination from fill originating from another buried archaeological site).
- If, prior to, or during construction work, items of archeological or historical value are reported or discovered, or an unknown deposit of such items is disturbed, work activities would immediately cease in the area affected. The Forest Service would be notified and ground disturbing activity would not resume until written authorization is provided.
- Should human remains be encountered, the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA), 25 U.S.C. 3001 et seq. [Nov. 16, 1990] and its regulations (43 CFR §10) would apply.

- There are 12 units proposed in the 2018 Maintenance Underburn Project that have cultural concerns which need to be addressed. In general, no project activities are allowed within a 30-meter buffer of eligible cultural sites. **Prior to implementation contact the District Archaeologist.**

Botany

- Equipment Cleaning - Actions conducted or authorized by written permit (contracts) require cleaning of all heavy equipment (i.e., bulldozers, skidders, and other construction equipment) prior to entering National Forest lands. Equipment will be inspected on-site by the Forest Service project manager or the District botanist prior to start of work.
- Forest Service crews will ensure that all equipment and gear is free of invasive plant parts (seeds, roots, etc.) prior to entering the project area.

Soils/Hydrology

- All refueling and storage of equipment will occur more than 25 feet from water.
- Equipment operators/operations will have a spill kit on site of sufficient size to clean up and prevent further contamination.
- Forest Service will be informed of any observed petroleum spills.

Wildlife

- Both mowing and burning actions are to be done in a mosaic to leave scattered shrubs for foraging habitat for Johnson's hair streak and western bumblebee and small areas of accumulations of needle litter and down wood, for overwintering and breeding habitat for the western bumblebee.
- In units with rock outcrops or lava pressure ridges burn in spring or burn such that the rocks do not receive direct heat or smoke.
- No **underburning** within northern spotted owl home ranges in order to promote climatic-climax condition (Programmatic BA; M4-18). Applies to UB/Mow Units Grow Fiber 5, Hammy 47 and Hammy 65.
- Underburning within overlapping OGMA (M15-19) BEMA (M3-31 and 32), LSR (Davis LSRA 113, C-17 and 18), and CHU (Programmatic BA) areas would occur only in ponderosa pine dominated stands. See Table 1 to see which units are ponderosa pine dominated stands by PAG. All other stands need to be ground verified prior to initiation of burn plan to ensure meeting LRMP, NWFP, and LSRA standards.

Table 1. UB/Mowing Units and Plant Association Groups (PAGS)

NWFP/LRMP Allocation	ACRES	NSO CHU Acres	LSR	BEMA	OG	PAG
Grow Fiber 5	334	121	334			MCD^
Grow Fiber 6	30	30	30			MCD^
Grow Fiber 60	93	92	93			MCD^
Hammy 47	33	33	20			MCD
Hammy 65	225	225	82			MCD
Hammy 69	55	41				MCD
Jig 1	172			60		PP
Jig 3	99				57	LPW
Jig 4	22					LPW

NWFP/LRMP Allocation	ACRES	NSO CHU Acres	LSR	BEMA	OG	PAG
Jig 3	99				57	LPW
Jig 4	22					LPW
Rabbit 40	73					LP
Royal 1	12	12	12			MCD
Royal 2	24	0	24	24		MCD
Royal 3	77	77	77			MCD [^]
Royal 4	126	129	128		15	MCD/MHD [^]
Royal 49	118	118	48			MCD
Royal 50	38	38				PPW ^{^r}
Royal 51	249	207				PPW ^{^r}
Royal 52	56	56	56			MCD
Royal 67	49	41	10			PPD ^{^r}
Royal 69	81	81				MCD/PPW
Royal 85	83	83	83			MCD
Toon 60	296				291	PP
[^] LSR Designated Fire Behavior Modification Area. See also TES Table 2 for Davis LSRA Fuels Treatments. ^{^r} Roadside Fire Behavior Modification Area.						

- Creep of UB/Mow pile burning on units overlapping BEMA, LSR and CHU would be limited to 5-15 feet.
- Prescribed mowing/burning would be accomplished in a mosaic pattern across the landscape with unburned/unmowed areas within each unit, in addition to unburned/unmowed designated leave areas, with the goal of leaving at least 25 percent shrub cover.
- For UB/Mow units with burning within the NWFP and northern spotted owl critical habitat, to prevent disturbance to nesting owls, prescribed fire managers need to use smoke management forecasts in order to minimize smoke entering into suitable habitat and to ensure that dissipation would be adequate during the nesting season (Programmatic BA).
- No treatments in NSO NRF habitat.
- Treatment units that are NSO dispersal habitat would retain 30% canopy cover and mosaic of understory trees to remain dispersal habitat post treatment. This applies to all or parts of UB/Mow units Grow Fiber 5, 6, and 60, Hammy 47, 65 and 69, Jig 1, 2, 3, and 6, Royal 3, 4, 49, 50, 51, 52, 67, 69, and 85.
- In order to meet dead wood needs in UB/Mow units the following standards in Table 2 need to be maintained. Note: no underburning in Hammy 47, 65, 69, and Royal 1, 2, 3, 4, 49, 52, 69 and 85.

Table 2. Dead Wood Standards

LSR		
Vegetation/Goal Fuels Treatments	Down Wood	UB/Mow Units
Mixed Conifer Climatic Climax Handpile/grapple pile, (review MSA for determination of mechanical vs. non-mechanical piling) Minor fire creep ² associated with burning	Minimum average of 20 tons/acre >5"dbh, including high density clumps >25 tons/acre on 2% of each treatment units	Hammy ¹ 47, 65, and 69; Royal 1, 2, 49, 52, 69 ¹ and 85

LSR														
Vegetation/Goal Fuels Treatments	Down Wood	UB/Mow Units												
<p>Preference is for larger minimum diameter down wood to be left.</p> <p>¹Hammy Units are all in NSO CHU, units 47 and 65 are also partially within LSR, all of Royal units are in NSO CHU, units 67 and 69 are not or only partially within LSR but both are within CHU</p> <p>²Minor fire creep is approximately 5-15 feet from pile</p> <p>Davis LSRA Tables 3-4a-e pages 88-92, Programmatic BA</p>														
LSR Designated Fire Behavior Modification Units (FBMU)														
Fire Behavior Modification Parameters by Vegetation Goal/ Fuels Treatments	≥ 9" dbh* Min-Max tons/acre	UB/Mow Units												
PP/DF and EMC Managed for Fire Climax Pile and disposal, Underburn	12 to 20	Grow Fiber 5, 6, 60 Royal [^] 50, 51, 67												
EMC for Climatic Climax Handpile/grapple pile, (review MSA for determination of mechanical vs. non-mechanical piling) Minor fire creep associated with burning	11 to 42	Royal 3, Royal 4												
<p>*Because these units will be maintained with fire, down wood under 9" inches dbh is not expected to remain and down wood needs would be met by larger material. EMC=Eastside Mixed Conifer, PP/DF=Ponderosa Pine/Douglas-fir, MMC=Montane Mixed Conifer (generally Mt Hemlock plant association groups).</p> <p>[^] Roadside LSR included as part of FBMU although not in a specific designate area (LSRA pg105)</p> <p>Davis LSRA Tables 3-7, 3-8 page 109-110</p>														
NWFP outside of LSR and East of the NWFP														
Species	Tons per Acre*	UB/Mow Units												
LP	7 to 42	Jig 3 and 4, Rabbit 40												
PP and PP dominated stands	12 to 20	Jig 1, 2, 5, 6, CE 16, CE 35, Muttonchop 57, Rabbit 42, 48, 142, Sun Forest 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and Toon 60												
Mixed Conifer	11 to 42	Bunny Fiber 35												
<p>* Criteria to exceed standard, align with current research and large vegetation projects NWFP Standard C-40: <i>For all Vegetative Series: 16 in. min. diameter, 16 ft min. piece for a total 120 ft lineal ft where diameter minimums are not available largest material is to be left.</i></p> <p>Appendix B Revised Interim Direction, 1995 (pg10) as follows:</p> <table> <tr> <th><i>Vegetative Series</i></th><th><i>Down Wood Pieces per Acres (Diameter Small End**)</i></th><th><i>Piece Length and Total Lineal length</i></th></tr> <tr> <td><i>Ponderosa Pine</i></td><td><i>15 to 20 (12")</i></td><td><i>> 6 ft. 100-140 ft.</i></td></tr> <tr> <td><i>Mixed Conifer</i></td><td><i>15 to 20 (12")</i></td><td><i>> 8 ft. 120- 180 ft.</i></td></tr> <tr> <td><i>Lodgepole Pine</i></td><td><i>3 to 6 (8")</i></td><td><i>> 6 ft. 20-40 ft.</i></td></tr> </table> <p>**Where minimum diameters cannot be met, the largest available would be left.</p>			<i>Vegetative Series</i>	<i>Down Wood Pieces per Acres (Diameter Small End**)</i>	<i>Piece Length and Total Lineal length</i>	<i>Ponderosa Pine</i>	<i>15 to 20 (12")</i>	<i>> 6 ft. 100-140 ft.</i>	<i>Mixed Conifer</i>	<i>15 to 20 (12")</i>	<i>> 8 ft. 120- 180 ft.</i>	<i>Lodgepole Pine</i>	<i>3 to 6 (8")</i>	<i>> 6 ft. 20-40 ft.</i>
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- To mitigate disturbance to northern spotted owl, no disturbing activities adjacent to or within 0.25 miles of NRF habitat or known nest would occur March 1 through September 30, unless disturbance surveys are completed according to the 2012 Revised Protocol for Surveying Proposed Management Activities that may impact Northern Spotted Owls (USFWS rev. 2012 at 9.0 pg17). This mitigation measure would apply to 18 UB/Mow units. Refer to Table 3. Waivers may be granted in most cases as surveys are completed.

- To mitigate disturbance to the northern bald eagle, goshawk, coopers hawk, sharpshin hawk, osprey, and big game fawning/calving seasonal restrictions will apply: No disturbing activities will be conducted during periods of seasonal restriction. Refer to Table 3 for the restriction period and units that the mitigation measure applies. These conditions may be waived in a particular year if nesting or reproductive success surveys reveal that the species in question is non-nesting or that no young are present that year. If a nest is discovered during implementation the appropriate restriction would apply.

Table 3. Mitigation Restrictions and UB/Mow Units it Applies to

Restriction	UB/Mow Units
NSO - March 1 -September 30	Grow Fiber 05, 06, and 60, Hammy 47, Hammy 65, 69, 70, Royal 01, 02, 03, 04, 49, 50, 51, 52, 67, 69, and 85
Bald Eagle - January 1-August 31	None known at this time
Goshawk - March 1-August 3	Sun Forest 2
Red tailed hawk - March 1-August 3	Sun Forest 3, 5, 6, and 7
Osprey - April 1-August 31	Royal 3, Jig 1, 2, 3, 4, 5,6
Fawning/Calving - May 1-June 30 (Not all Units have been ground-truthed as fawning/calving habitat)	Muttonchop 57, Royal 2, 4, 51

- Snags ≥ 20 inches dbh and down wood ≥ 16 inches diameter at the large end that are in an advanced stage of decay or that have ants present would be protected as forage for pileated woodpeckers, from underburning and/or mowing.
- In UB/Mow units, no spring underburning or pile burning would occur to protect bat species during nesting/roosting season (LRMP WL-75). Applies to units with rock outcrops or lava pressure ridges. To be applied to portions of units with these habitat features.

Silviculture- see Table 4 in Appendix A for all specifics

- Drop Royal 01 and 02.
- No underburning in Rabbit 40, 48, and 142. See Silviculturalist prior to prescription implementation.
- Pre-commercial thin (PCT) only in Sun Forest 7, Royal 51, and Jig 03, 04 and 06.
- Pre-commercial thin (PCT)/Mow only in Jig 01 and 02.

Fuels

- Prior to implementation in units Royal 49, Royal 50, and Royal 51, please contact Tim Cramblit at 541-747-1924.

Best Available Science and Conclusion

My conclusion includes a review of the record of relevant scientific information, a consideration of responsible opposing views, and the acknowledgment of incomplete or unavailable information, scientific uncertainty, and risk.

Administrative and Appeal Rights

The final decision is not subject to appeal or objection. On January 17, 2014, the President signed into law the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2014 (Pub. L. No. 113-76). Section 431 of that Act directs that the 1992 and 2012 legislation establishing the 36 CFR 215 (post-decisional appeals) and 36 CFR 218 (pre-decisional objections) processes “shall not apply to any project or activity implementing a land and resource management plan ... that is categorically excluded ...under the National Environmental Policy Act [NEPA].” As a result, the Forest Service no longer offers notice, comment, and appeal opportunities



pursuant to 36 CFR 215 for categorically excluded projects such as the one covered under this Decision Memo.

Contact Information

For additional information concerning this project, contact Kathy Enna, AFMO - Fuels, at Crescent Ranger District, 136471 Hwy 97 N/ P.O. Box 208, Crescent OR 97733, or by phone at (541) 433-3200.

DANIEL RIFE
District Ranger
Crescent Ranger District

DATE

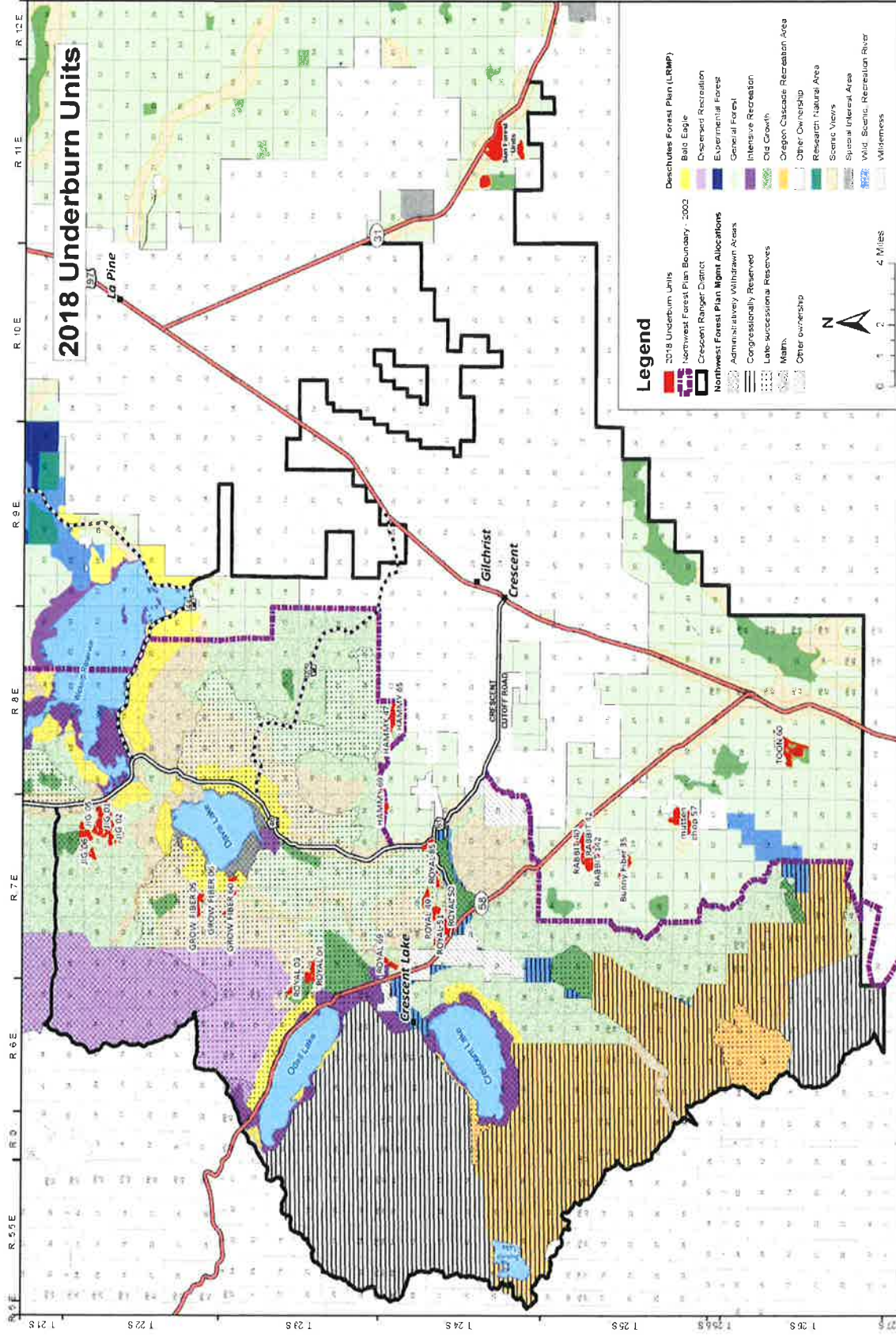


Figure 1. 2018 Fuels Mowing and Underburning Units on the Crescent Ranger District

Appendix A

Table 4. Silviculture Mitigation Restrictions for 2018 Underburn Units

FID	Unit	Rx Unit	SALE	Acres	Max allowable mortality %			Notes
					Over21"	9_21"	Less Than 9"	
0	2	2	Sun Forest 2	68	5	10	50	Exclude Stagecoach 3 plantation.
1	3	3	Sun Forest 3	62	5	10	50	
41	3	3.1	Sun Forest 3	12	0	0	0	PCT only in far west portion not originally burned
2	4	4	Sun Forest 4	102	5	10	50	
3	5	5	Sun Forest 5	112	5	10	50	
42	5	5.1	Sun Forest 5	14	0	0	0	Exclude area in north not previously burned.
4	6	6	Sun Forest 6	117	5	10	50	
43	6	6.1	Sun Forest 6	25	5	10	30	30% for <9" mortality with in HWY West 9
5	7	7	Sun Forest 7	119	0	0	0	PCT only
6	8	8	TOON 60	296	5	10	50	
7	9	9	ROYAL 02	24	0	0	0	Defer
8	10	10	ROYAL 01	12	0	0	0	Defer
9	11	11	ROYAL 03	77	0	0	0	No Underburn*
10	12	12	ROYAL 04	129	0	0	0	No Underburn*
11	13	13	ROYAL 69	81	0	0	0	No Underburn*
12	14	14	ROYAL 67	45	5	10	50	Optional mow lodgepole pine seedlings
44	14	14.1	ROYAL 67	4	0	0	0	Leave Area
13	15	15	ROYAL 52	56	0	0	0	No Underburn*
14	16	16	ROYAL 49	118	0	0	0	No Underburn*
15	17	17	ROYAL 85	83	0	0	0	No Underburn*
16	18	18	ROYAL 51	207	0	0	0	PCT only
17	19	19	ROYAL 50	35	5	10	50	
45	19	19.1	ROYAL 50	3	0	0	0	Exclude dense lodgepole area in West
18	20	20	GROW FIBER 06	30	5	10	50	Grapple/ UB
46	21	21	GROW FIBER 60	41	5	10	50	UB below 200rd
19	21	21.1	GROW FIBER 60	52	0	0	0	Grapple w/creep?
20	22	22	JIG 01	165	5	10	50	
39	22	22.1	JIG 01	40	0	0	0	PCT Mow only
40	23	23	JIG 02	62	5	10	50	
38	23	23.1	JIG 02	45	0	0	0	PCT Mow only
21	23	23.2	JIG 02	58	5	10	50	Exclude areas outside of new boundary
22	24	24	JIG 03	99	0	0	0	PCT only
23	25	25	JIG 04	22	0	0	0	PCT only
24	26	26	JIG 05	24	5	10	50	50% mortality applies to ponderosa pine only.

					Max allowable mortality %			
FID	Unit	Rx Unit	SALE	Acres	Over21"	9_21"	Less Than 9"	Notes
25	27	27	JIG 06	61	0	0	0	PCT only
26	28	28	Muttonchop 57	128	5	10	50	Retain as many small diameter clumps as possible.
27	29	29	Bunny Fiber 35	89	0	0	0	Mow brush only
28	30	30	Muttonchop 56	82	5	10	50	Adjust lines as shown in GIS layer
29	31	31	UB CE 16	97	5	10	50	
30	32	32	RABBIT 48	84	0	0	0	No Underburn*
31	33	33	RABBIT 40	73	0	0	0	No Underburn*
32	34	34	RABBIT 42	122	5	10	50	
33	35	35	RABBIT 142	69	0	0	0	No Underburn*
34	36	36	HAMMY 69	55	0	0	0	No Underburn*
35	37	37	HAMMY 47	33	0	0	0	No Underburn*
36	38	38	HAMMY 65	225	0	0	0	No Underburn*
37	39	39	GROW FIBER 05	121	0	0	0	Grapple pile w/creep?

*See Silviculturalist prior to any work in these units